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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,287	08/30/2001	Ivano Antonio Gagliardi	CM2422	9985

27752 7590 09/04/2003

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION  
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161  
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CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

BOYER, CHARLES I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 09/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/939,287

Applicant(s)

Gagliardi et al

Examiner

Charles Boyer

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 30, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for specific polymers listed in the specification, does not reasonably provide enablement for an absorbent gelling material. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. Virtually any absorbent material would meet the absorbent gelling material limitation of the present claims.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 11, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Before citing the references against the present claims, the examiner would like to state for

the record that due to the inordinate breadth of the present claims, requiring only a process of treating a fabric with a composition containing a gelling material, the examiner maintains that a thorough search is impossible. Polymers are present in literally thousands of laundry detergent compositions. Even when applicants' preferred utility of carpet cleaning is considered, there are still at least scores of references that would anticipate at least claim 1 of the present application. The examiner has taken into consideration the present invention as a whole, in order to identify the closest prior art, which art is cited below. Applicants should be aware however, that there are many other references that could have been cited against the present invention. Any response from applicants to the references cited below that does not also address the fact that their claims

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are extremely broadly written, together with a clear statement of what applicants consider to be the novelty of their invention, would likely not be successful in rendering those claims allowable.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levitt, US 6,326,344.

Levitt teaches a carpet cleaner containing a crosslinked acrylic acid copolymer (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises a crosslinked acrylic acid copolymer, surfactant, and solvent wherein the composition is applied to carpet then extracted with water and commercial spotting extractor (col. 7, examples 1-5). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Colurciello, Jr. et al, US 5,683,976.

Colurciello teaches a flowable granular carpet cleaning composition (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises comminuted cellulose, zeolite, surfactant, and solvent wherein the composition is applied to carpet, then vacuumed off (col. 13, examples 1-16). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

6. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osberghaus et al, US 4,648,882.

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Osberghaus et al teach a dry carpet cleaning composition (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises polymethacrylic acid, zeolite, surfactant, and solvent wherein the composition is applied to carpet, worked into the carpet with water, then vacuumed off (col. 7, examples 2 and 7). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

7. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scialla et al, US 5,928,384.

Scialla et al teach liquid or granular carpet cleaning compositions (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises maleic/acrylic acid copolymer, surfactant, and solvent wherein the composition is applied to carpet, then vacuumed off (col. 11, example 2). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art is cumulative to the references cited above.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Boyer whose telephone number is (703) 308-2524. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

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If reasonable attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta, can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9310 for non-after-final amendments and (703) 872-9311 for after-final amendments.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Charles Boyer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Boyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Charles Boyer".

August 30, 2003